

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	09/973,775	SUZUKI ET AL.
	Examiner James A. Dudek	Art Unit 2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to the reasons for allowance attached and the application filed 10/11/02.
  2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5.
  3.  The drawings filed on 11 October 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
  4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    - a)  All
    - b)  Some\*
    - c)  None
 of the:
    1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/342,131.
    3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.
5.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
    - (a)  The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
  6.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the Examiner.
  - (c)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____.            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____.   | <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

***Reasons for Allowance***

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

US 5068748 ("748") A teaches a first substrate [11]; a second substrate [12]; a liquid crystal layer sandwiched between first substrate and the second substrate [14]; a shielding material sealing the liquid crystal layer between the first substrate and the second substrate [13]; a plurality of scanning signal lines provided on the first substrate [18]; a plurality of video signal lines provided on the first substrate [19]; a plurality of counter signal lines provided on the first substrate [not shown but obvious as outlined below], the scanning signal lines, the video signal lines, and the counter signal lines defining pixel areas on the first substrate surrounded by the scanning signal lines, the video signal lines, and the counter signal lines, the pixel areas display area; collectively constituting a pixel electrode provided in each of the pixel areas; a counter electrode provided in each of the pixel areas, the counter electrode being spaced apart from the pixel electrode and being connected to one of the counter signal lines; a thin-film transistor provided in each of the pixel areas [16], the thin-film transistor being driven by a scanning signal from one of the scanning signal lines to supply a video signal from one of the video signal lines to the pixel electrode; a protection element line [31] provided around the display area, the protection element line being disposed between the display area and the shielding material [42]; and at least one diode connecting the protection element line to the video signal lines and the scanning signal lines [33].

Although the 748 lacks the in-plane switching arrangement, US patent 6191837 teaches such an arrangement for improving viewing angle. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to combine 6191837 with 748.

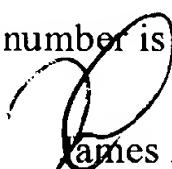
The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest "at least one common line electrically connecting the counter signal lines together; and at least one diode connecting the protection element line to the at least one common line."

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James A. Dudek whose telephone number is 308-4782. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert H. Kim can be reached on 703-305-3492. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.



James A. Dudek  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2871